



STARS MY DESTINATION:

STARMAN



51 MAR 99

ROBINSON
GOYER
SNEJBERG
CHAMPAGNE



MIDNIGHT
= IN THE =
HOUSE OF EL

FROM THE SHAPE'S JOURNAL...

Jack Knight, Mikael Tomas (and a hologram of Jack's father Ted) are searching space for Will Payton, the Starman prior to Jack.

Currently lost in time they've arrived in the past at a planet destined to have already exploded in the present. The name of this doomed orb... Krypton.

Now read on...

WE LAND WITH A WHISPER.

OUR SHIP, THOUGH OLD... A DOWAGER IN ITS QUAINLY ORNATE DRESS AND HIGH LACE COLLAR--

--MOVES AIDED BY MY FATHER'S COSMIC TECHNOLOGY... AND A NEW GENESIS MOTHER BOX.

AND SO... THE OLD WOMAN HAS THE GRACE AND EASE OF AN INGENUE FRESH FROM THE CONVENT.

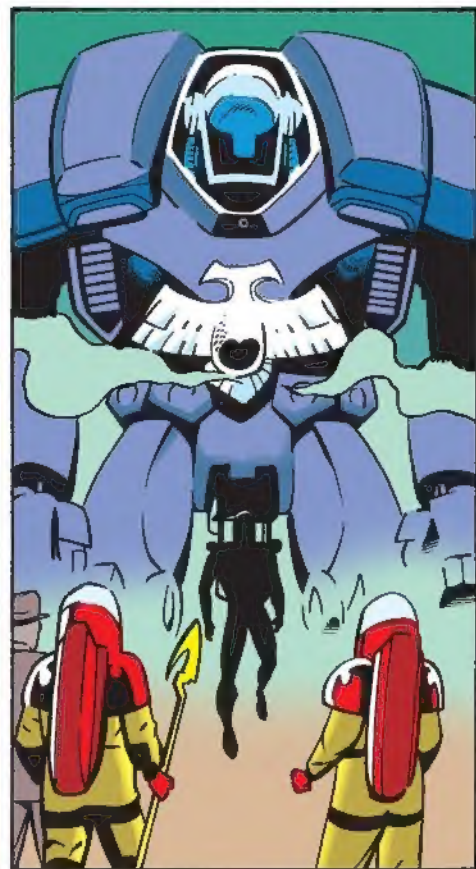
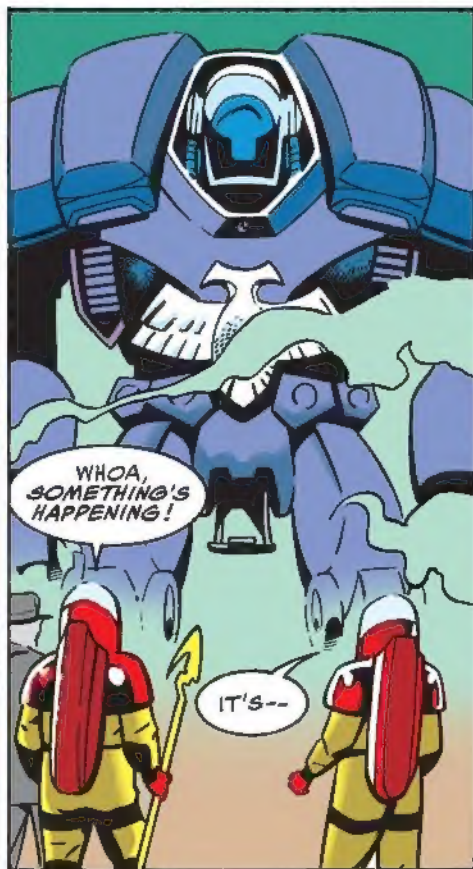
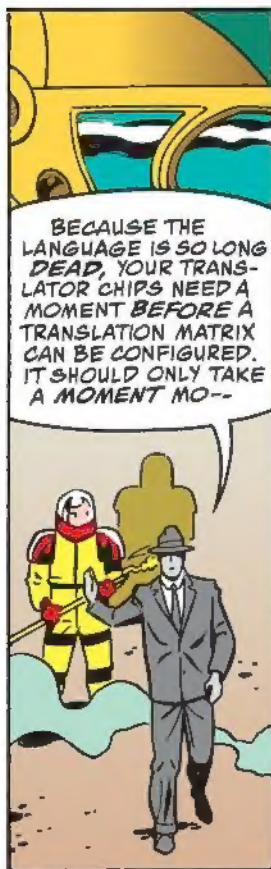
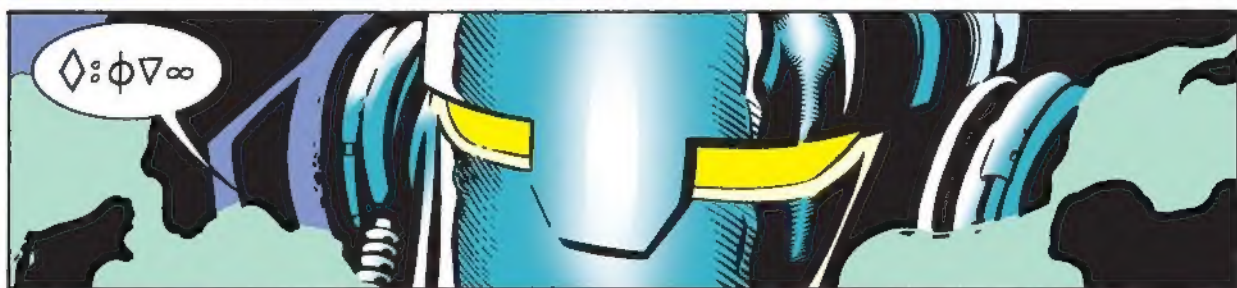
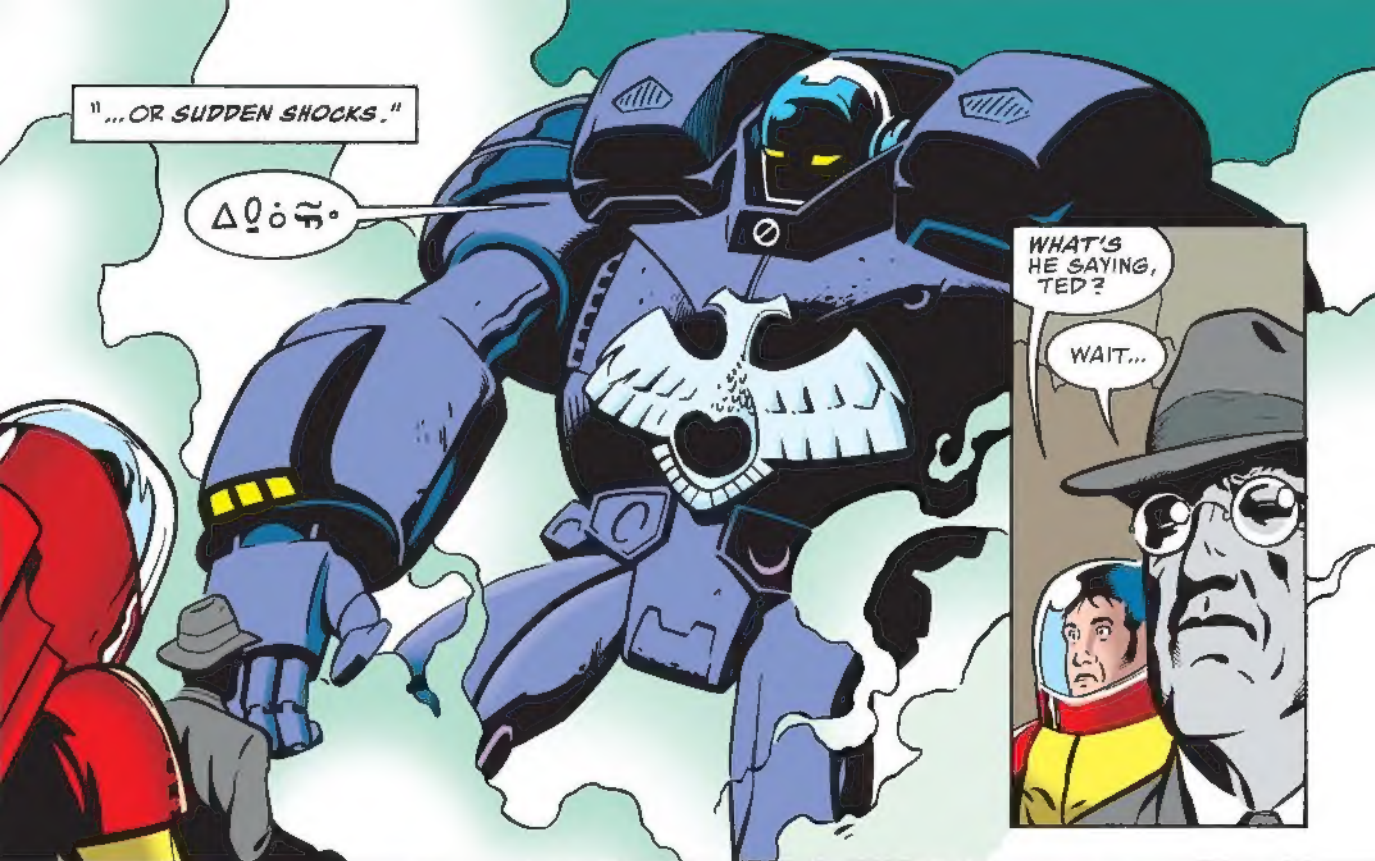
GEEZ, I'M STARTING TO THINK LIKE THE SHADE. SOMEBODY SHOOT ME.


NOW...

SENSORS SAY THE AIR IS BREATHABLE. A LITTLE THIN, PERHAPS, BUT--

I'D WEAR THE SUITS ANYWAY. OTHERWISE YOU MIGHT FAINT OR HAVE PROBLEMS BREATHING.

YOU SHOULD AVOID HAVING ANY HARD FALLS...





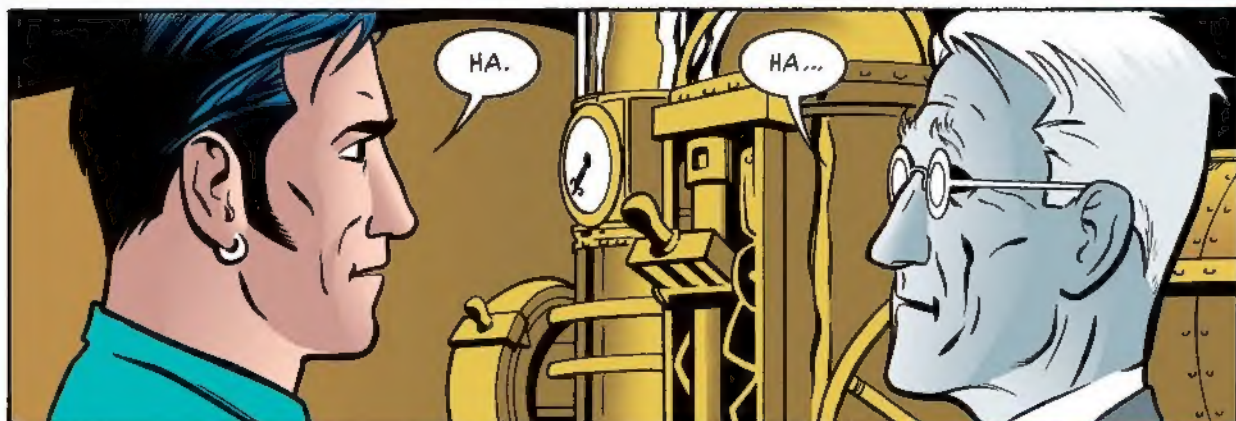
Φ-ΔΩ JAME
IS JOR-EL, SON OF
SEYG-EL, SON OF TER-EL,
SON OF DON-EL. I AM
TWENTY-SECOND
GENERATION OF THE
HOUSE OF EL.

I WAS
EXPLORING
THE LAND. ALONE.
I MEAN YOU NO
HARM.

MIDNIGHT IN THE HOUSE OF EL

ROBINSON and GOYER story ROBINSON words SNEJBURG pencils
CHAMPAGNE inks OAKLEY letters WRIGHT colors GCW seps TOMASI editor
GOODWIN guiding light







BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE DOING THIS, EVEN THOUGH YOU SAID...

...FOR LOVE?

SADIE'S MY HONEY.

SHOULD I TELL HIM?

I'M ON A QUEST FOR HER. IN OLDEN TIMES ON MY PLANET, MEN... KNIGHTS IN ARMOR--



YOUR NAME IS KNIGHT. SO YOU MEAN YOUR FORE-FATHERS?

ERT... YEAH, IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING... THE KNIGHTS OF OLD WENT ON QUESTS FOR THEIR LADIES. THAT'S HOW I LIKE TO THINK OF WHAT I'M DOING.

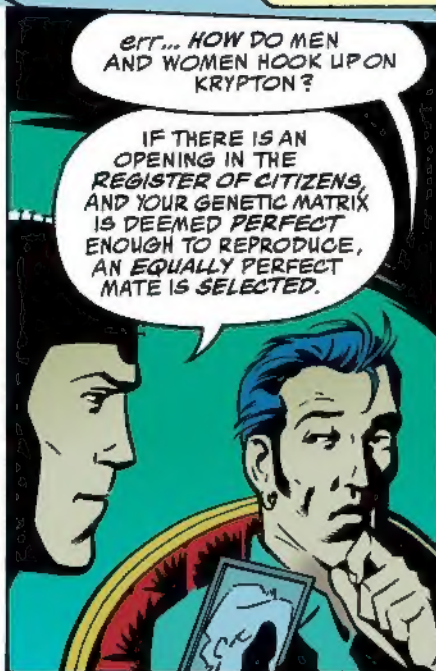
TELL HIM EVERYTHING?



FOR YOUR BIOLOGICAL PARTNER. HAVE YOU SEEN HER?

HAVE I SEEN HER? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

HAS SHE BEEN SHOWN TO YOU?



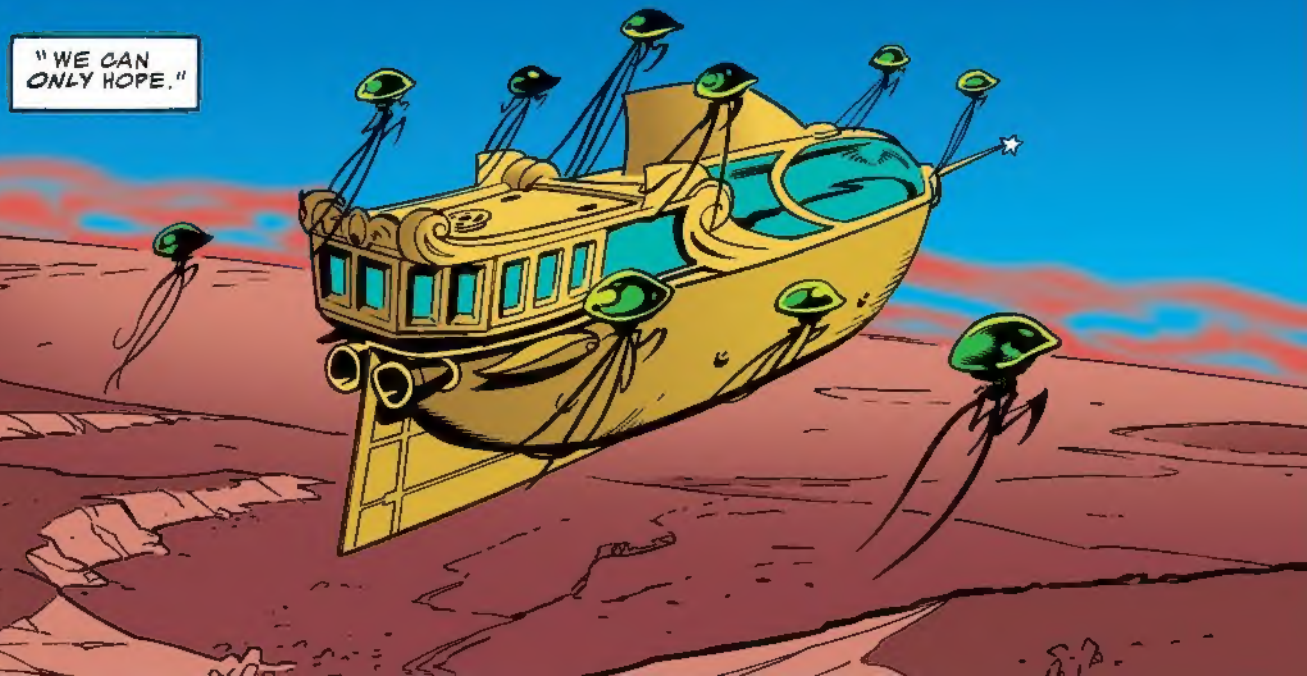
ERT... HOW DO MEN AND WOMEN HOOK UP ON KRYPTON?

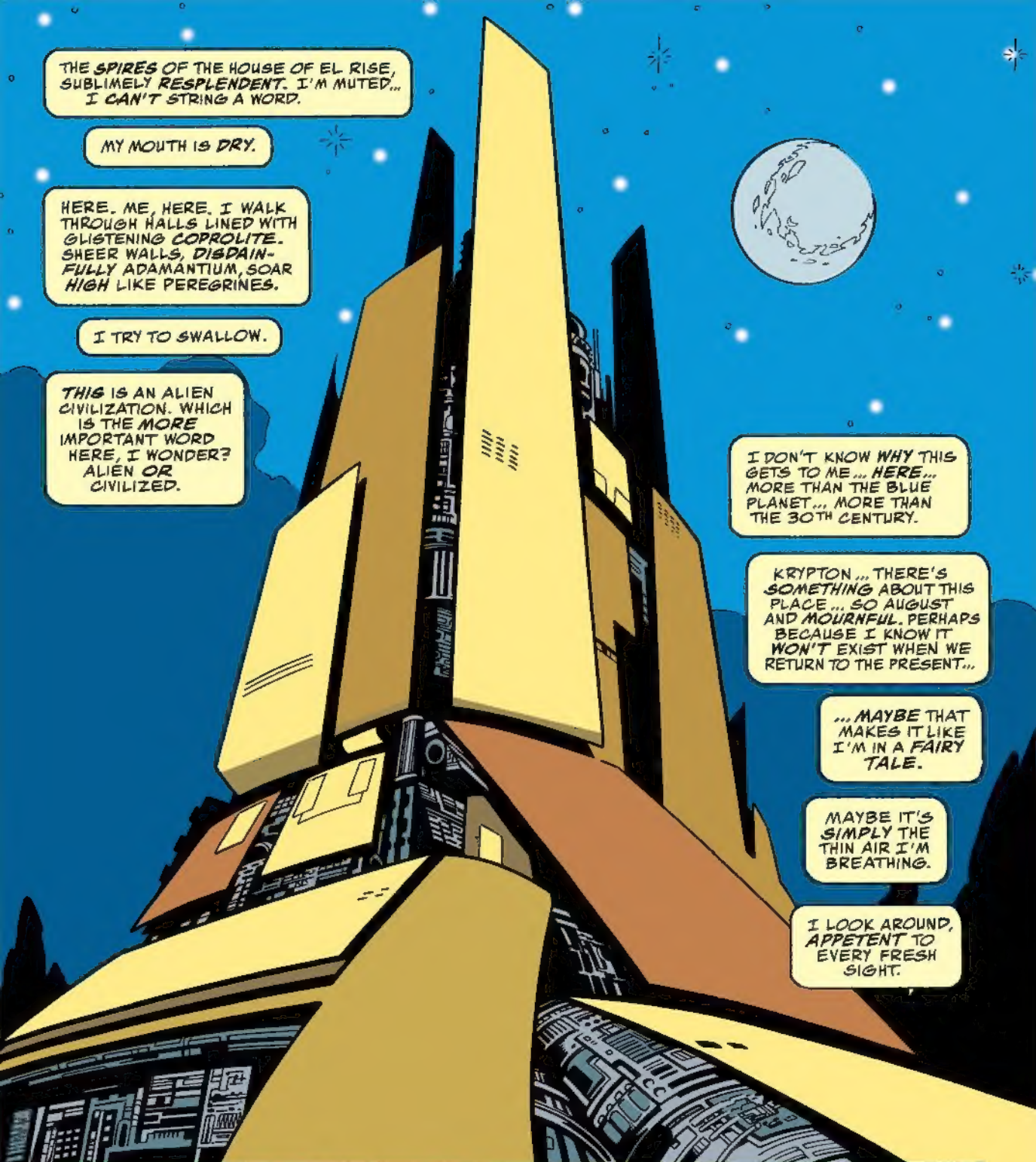
IF THERE IS AN OPENING IN THE REGISTER OF CITIZENS, AND YOUR GENETIC MATRIX IS DEEMED PERFECT ENOUGH TO REPRODUCE, AN EQUALLY PERFECT MATE IS SELECTED.



OUR CELLS ARE COMBINED IN THE LABORATORY... A GESTATION CHAMBER. A CHILD COMES FROM THIS.







THE SPIRES OF THE HOUSE OF EL RISE,
SUBLIMELY RESPLENDENT. I'M MUTED...
I CAN'T STRING A WORD.

MY MOUTH IS DRY.

HERE. ME, HERE. I WALK
THROUGH HALLS LINED WITH
GLISTENING COPROLITE.
SHEER WALLS, DISDAIN-
FULLY ADAMANTIUM, SOAR
HIGH LIKE PEREGRINES.

I TRY TO SWALLOW.

THIS IS AN ALIEN
CIVILIZATION. WHICH
IS THE MORE
IMPORTANT WORD
HERE, I WONDER?
ALIEN OR
CIVILIZED.

I DON'T KNOW WHY THIS
GETS TO ME... HERE...
MORE THAN THE BLUE
PLANET... MORE THAN
THE 30TH CENTURY.

KRYPTON... THERE'S
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS
PLACE... SO AUGUST
AND MOURNFUL. PERHAPS
BECAUSE I KNOW IT
WON'T EXIST WHEN WE
RETURN TO THE PRESENT...

...MAYBE THAT
MAKES IT LIKE
I'M IN A FAIRY
TALE.

MAYBE IT'S
SIMPLY THE
THIN AIR I'M
BREATHING.

I LOOK AROUND,
APPETENT TO
EVERY FRESH
SIGHT.

I'M LOST FOR WORDS...

WHY WON'T
YOU ANSWER OUR
QUESTIONS?

THE HOLOGRAM BEFORE
ME IS SEYG-EL.

SUPERMAN'S GRANDFATHER.

HE'S NO WILL GEER.



IS IT BECAUSE
WE'VE MISTREATED
YOU IN SOME WAY? YOUR
QUARTERS ARE AS
COMFORTABLE AS
ANY ON KRYPTON.

WHAT ABOUT THE FACT THAT YOU TOOK MY COSMIC ROD AND MOTHER BOX OFF WHEREVER, AND SEPARATED ME FROM MY FRIEND MIKAAL?



ISOLATION IS NOT CONSIDERED AN UNPLEASANT STATE OF BEING HERE.



NOW WHY WON'T YOU ANSWER MY QUESTIONS?



BECAUSE NONE OF THEM MAKE SENSE.

FIRSTLY, I REALLY AM FROM ANOTHER TIME AND PLANET. I'M NOT FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF KRYPTON THE SHIP ISN'T SOME PLOT BY BLACK ZERO... WHATEVER THAT IS... TO RISE FROM ITS OWN ASHES AND SPREAD DISSENT.



HOW CAN I BELIEVE THAT? YOU LOOK JUST LIKE US. YOU DON'T LOOK ALIEN.

MAYBE GOD WAS FEELING UNORIGINAL THAT DAY.

GOD?

A DEITY.



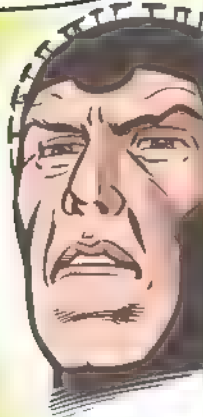
YOU'RE JOR-EL'S FATHER, RIGHT?

I AM SEYG-EL, SON OF TER-EL, SON OF---

THE TWENTY-FIRST GENERATION OF EL. YEAH. I KNOW.

HOW IS JOR-EL? I HOPE YOU DIDN'T PUNISH HIM.

FOR INTERACTING WITH YOU? NO. FOR GOING OFF ALONE AND EXPLORING SO FAR AFIELD. HOWEVER, HE RECEIVED THE HARSHTEST PUNISHMENT...



... CONFINEMENT TO HIS LIVING QUARTERS.

HOUSE ARREST. THAT DOESN'T SOUND SO BAD.

NOT TO ANYONE BUT JOR-EL, PERHAPS.

SO... THIS VISITATION BY YOU IS SOME KIND OF BEACHHEAD? AN INVASION WILL FOLLOW, PERHAPS?

err...



YOUR
FRIEND REVEALED
YOU INTEND TO INVADE
US.



I DOUBT
JACK SAID
ANYTHING
OF THE
KIND.

HE TOLD US EVERY-
THING. HE IS WILLING
TO BETRAY YOU FOR
HIS OWN LIBERTY.



HE TALKED
OF DETESTING
YOU... YOUR BLUE
SKIN.

THIS ATTEMPT
TO DIVIDE US AND
TURN US AGAINST
EACH OTHER IS
ILL-CONCEIVED
AT BEST.



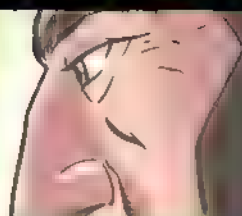
I'M WISE TO
YOU.

YOU GOTTA
UNDERSTAND, ON MY
PLANET THERE'S A MEANS
OF MASS ENTERTAINMENT
CALLED TELEVISION. ON
TELEVISION ARE DRAMAS
ABOUT LAW ENFORCERS.
COPS, WE CALL
THEM.



NYPD BLUE. THEY ALWAYS SPLIT UP CRIMI-
NALS AND GET ONE TO SQUEAL ON THE OTHER.
OR DO "GOOD COP, BAD COP," WHICH I'M GLAD
YOU HAVEN'T TRIED.

THE IDEA OF "GOOD HEAD,
BAD HEAD" WOULD HAVE HAD ME
IN STITCHES.



YOUR WORLD SOUNDS
SO VERY DIFFERENT
FROM OURS.

WE INTERACT
TOGETHER MORE,
FOR ONE. WE LAUGH.
WE MAKE WAR. WE
CONCEIVE OUR
CHILDREN THE
GOOD WAY...



...SWEATY AND
SQUIRTY.

YOUR WORLD
IS SO STERILE,
I BET YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW WHAT
I'M TALKING
ABOUT.



BARBARIAN.

WAKE
UP,
JACK!

JOR-EL? YOUR
FATHER SAID HE'D
CONFINED YOU.

LUCKILY FOR ME,
MY FATHER HAS YET TO
REALIZE SAYING AND
DOING ARE TWO SEP-
ARATE THINGS.

I GOT MIKAAL
FIRST. YOU BOTH HAVE
TO LEAVE NOW.

LEAVE?

GET OFF THIS PLANET...
EVEN IF IT'S JUST INTO SPACE
AND NOT TIME. MY FATHER AND
THE OTHER ELDERS HAVE DECIDED
YOU SHOULD STAY HERE IMPRIS-
ONED FOREVER AS A CON-
STANT SOURCE OF STUDY.

YOUR FATHER IS
THAT CRUEL?

FOR
WHAT HE DID,
JACK, MY FATHER
NOW SHINES IN MY EYES.
HE SAVED YOUR LIVES.
THE OTHERS WANTED TO
DISSECT YOU; IT WAS MY
FATHER WHO ARGUED
FOR IMPRISONMENT
INSTEAD.

NOT THAT YOU'LL HAVE THE
TIME OR OPPORTUNITY TO
THANK HIM.

THE ROBOTS ARE
CONSTRUCTING A
HIGH-SECURITY FACILITY
TO HOUSE YOU. AFTER
THAT'S BUILT, YOU'LL
NEVER ESCAPE.

WHERE'S YOUR DAD NOW?

IN HIS QUARTERS.
THAT'S WHERE HE'S BEEN
FOR THE ENTIRE TIME OF
YOUR STAY. BUT HIS HOLO-
GRAM COULD BE ANYWHERE.
WE MIGHT ENCOUNTER HIM
IN THIS WAY AT ANY TIME.

I'LL NEED MY
COSMIC ROD IF WE'RE
GOING TO GET OUT
OF HERE

I SENT MY
VALETS KELEX AND
KELAR TO RETRIEVE IT.
I'VE ARRANGED TO RE-
CONVENE WITH THEM AT
THE SITE HOUSING
YOUR MOTHER
BOX.

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?

IT'S A FACT, AND FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, YOUR OWN PLANET'S HISTORY WOULD PROVE IT.

ALL OF YOUR GREAT ADVANCES... SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL... CAME OUT OF NEEDS THAT STEMMED FROM DISCORD AND CHAOS. FROM THE THREAT OF BLACK ZERO.

THE SAME IS TRUE ON EARTH. WARS AND ECONOMIC DISARRAY LED TO GROWTH OF THE MIND.

ONE EXAMPLE WAS THE RENAISSANCE IN ITALY. BUT I COULD LIST ANY NUMBER OF WARS... WORLD WARS... FOUGHT ON MY PLANET WHICH ALSO BROUGHT ABOUT SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT.

AND IN ANOTHER DIMENSION, TWO WORLDS, NEW GENESIS AND APOKOLIPS ARE CONSTANTLY DISCOVERING NEW SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS WHILE IN A STATE OF CONFLICT WITH EACH OTHER.

SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT ON KRYPTON CAME FROM THE DESIRE TO ATTAIN THE CALM, PEACE THAT YOU NOW ABIDE IN... HOWEVER THE INVERSE OF THIS IS THAT SINCE ATTAINING THIS, YOU QUASH ANY FURTHER GREAT RESEARCH OR ADVANCEMENT FOR FEAR IT WILL DISRUPT YOUR LIVES.

I LIKE MY LIFE. SO DO WE ALL HERE.

NOT YOUR SON. HE SEEKS ANSWERS.

MY SON IS... NOT WHAT I WOULD WISH HIM TO BE

CLEARLY. NEVERTHELESS, MY ARGUMENT STILL STANDS THAT--

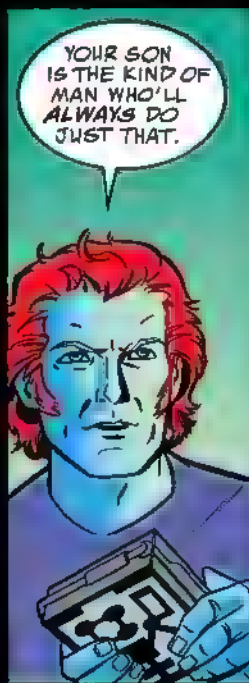
ARGUMENT'S OVER, MOTHER BOX.

WE GOTTA BOOK.

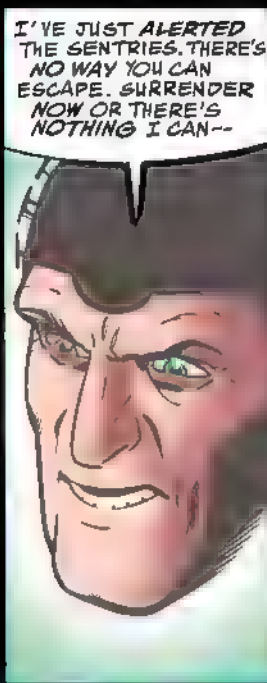


WHAT ARE YOU DOING? JOR-EL? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

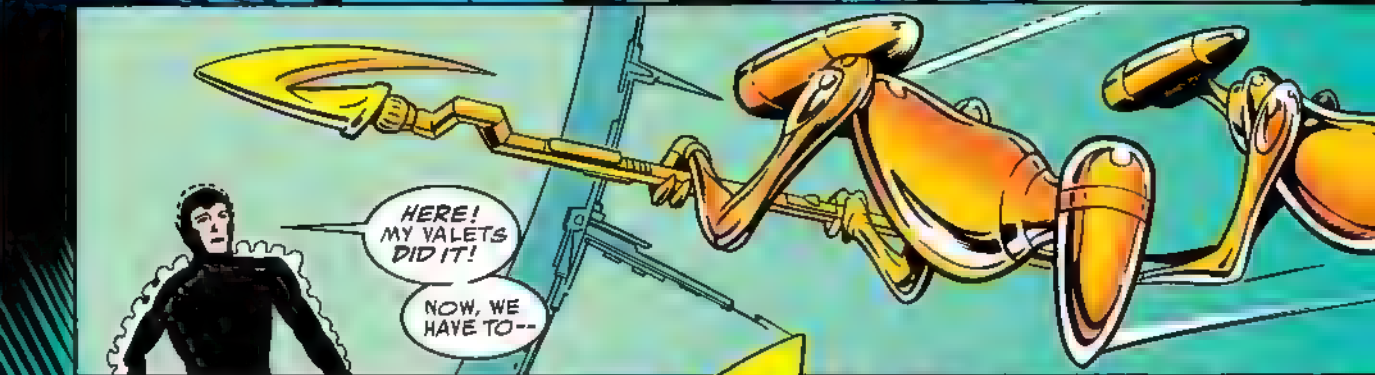
HE'S DOING WHAT HE KNOWS IS RIGHT. HE'S FOLLOWING HIS HEART.



YOUR SON IS THE KIND OF MAN WHO'LL ALWAYS DO JUST THAT.



I'VE JUST ALERTED THE SENTRIES. THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN ESCAPE. SURRENDER NOW OR THERE'S NOTHING I CAN--



HERE! MY VALETS DID IT!

NOW, WE HAVE TO--

NO. YOU HAVE TO-- YOU HAVE TO GET MIKAAL AND MOTHER BOX TO THE SHIP. GET IT IN THE AIR.

AS LONG AS I'VE GOT MY COSMIC ROD I CAN JOIN YOU UP THERE IN THE SKY, BUT SOMEONE HAS TO HOLD OFF WHATEVER'S COMING UNTIL THEN.



THE SENTRIES IN OUR HOUSE ARE ALL AUTOMATED... BUT THEY'RE MANY. ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN?

I'M NEVER SURE...





KEEP...

...MOVING!

KEEP...

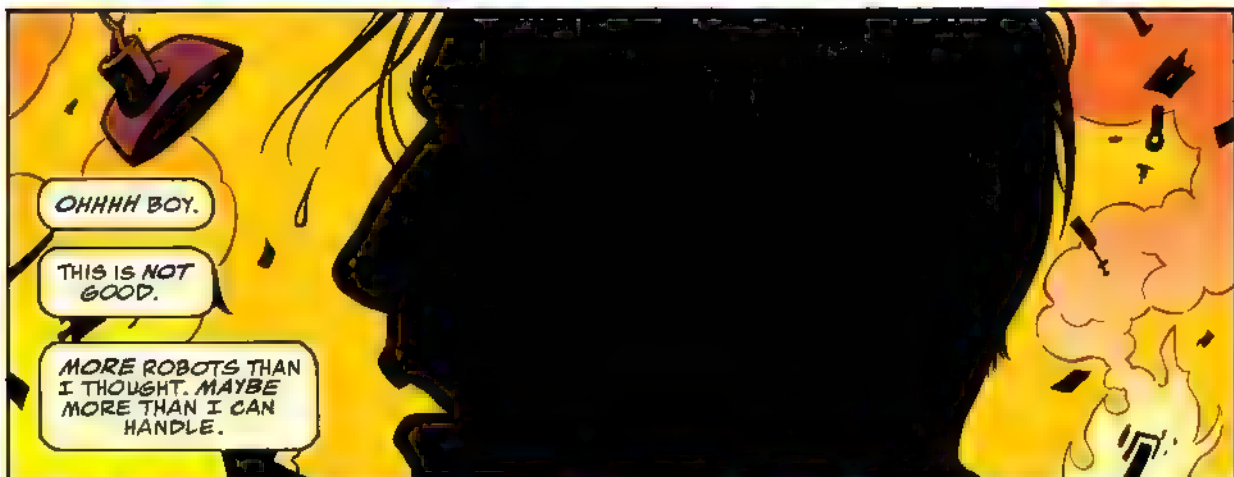
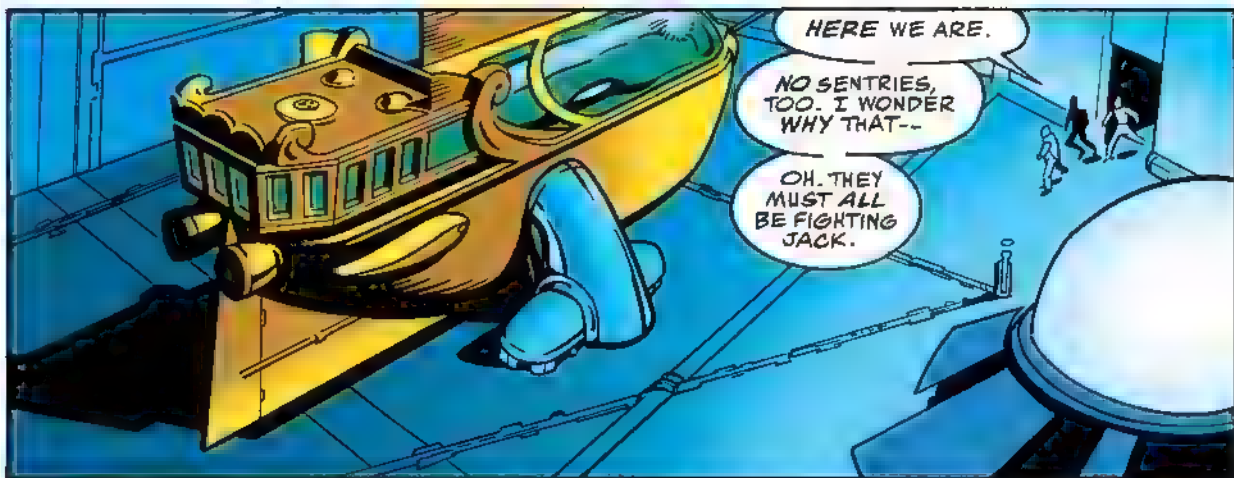
...FIRING!

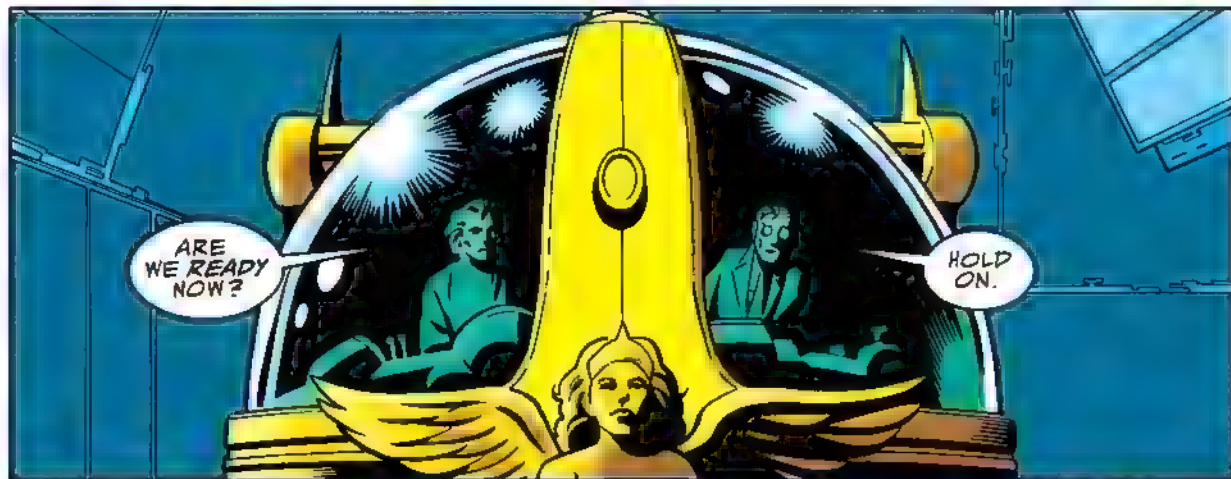
AND MAYBE ...

... I'LL LIVE TO
SEE EARTH ...

... AND SADIE ...

... AGAIN.







...INSIGNIFICANT.

IT ALLOWS ME MY
ESCAPE. I MEET
MY FRIENDS.

BUT FURTHER OFF WE LAND.

AFTER ALL...



...ONE OF US ISN'T
TAKING THE BIG TRIP.

YOU SHOULD
TAKE OFF AGAIN AT
ONCE. THE MAN O'
WAR WILL BE HERE
WITHIN MINUTES.

HOW WILL
YOU GET
BACK?

DON'T
WORRY, I
WON'T BE
LEFT TO
DIE.

WILL YOUR
PUNISHMENT BE
SEVERE?

ONE GOOD THING
ABOUT MY WORLD IS THAT
PUNISHMENT LACKS BOTH
SEVERITY AND IMAGINATION.
I'LL BE CONFINED. MY
SECURITY WILL BE
INCREASED.

SO IT MIGHT
TAKE ME TWO
DAYS TO THINK OF A
WAY OUT INSTEAD
OF ONE AS IT
USUALLY DOES.

LOOK, THEY
APPROACH! YOU
MUST GO!

HERE, A PARTING GIFT.

THIS DEVICE CONTAINS THE
BINARY CODE COORDINATES
OF EARTH. VISUAL DATA,
TOO... PICTURES, SO YOU
WON'T FORGET WHAT
EARTH AND ITS PEOPLE
LOOK LIKE. FOR IF YOU EVER
DO GET THAT ROCKET
BUILT.

I'LL DO
MY BEST.
PERHAPS ONE
DAY. AND IF
NOT ME...

...PERHAPS
I'LL HAVE A
SON.

MAY GREAT RAO GUIDE
YOU ONWARD.

AND MAY
THE MANY GODS
OF MY WORLD
WATCH OVER
YOU...

"...AND YOUR
PLANET."



I KNOW,
I KNOW...

... WE COULD
HAVE TOLD HIM.

WE COULD
HAVE TOLD HIM
EVERYTHING.

BUT AS OUR
LAST
ADVENTURE
SHOWED US ALL
TOO WELL...

... SOMETIMES THE
FUTURE IS BETTER
NOT KNOWN.

IT'S BEST TO
SIMPLY LET A
PERSON LIVE
THEIR LIFE...

ONE
DAY.

... AND ACHIEVE WHAT-
EVER FATE DECREES
THEIR DESTINY!

The End

FROM THE WRITER OF SUPERMAN &
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

JAMES ROBINSON

with **TONY HARRIS**

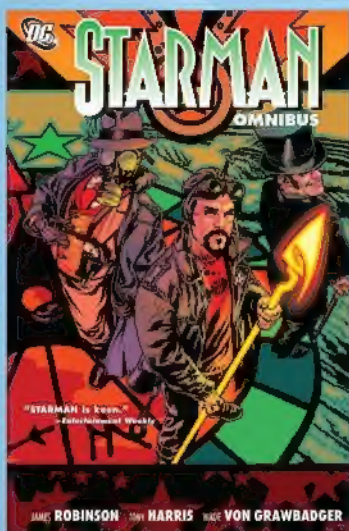
"The best-written superhero in comics."
— ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

*"What'll make THE STARMAN OMNIBUS
resonate with newcomers...is how well
[James] Robinson and [Tony] Harris
articulated the character of Jack Knight,
a slacker with idiosyncratic tastes and ideals that
didn't originate in any corporate boardroom."*
—THE ONION

STARMAN OMNIBUS VOL. 1
STARMAN OMNIBUS VOL. 2
STARMAN OMNIBUS VOL. 3
STARMAN OMNIBUS VOL. 4
STARMAN OMNIBUS VOL. 5



STARMAN OMNIBUS
VOL. 2



with
TONY HARRIS

STARMAN OMNIBUS
VOL. 3



with
TONY HARRIS
& others

STARMAN OMNIBUS
VOL. 4



with
TONY HARRIS
& others

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